



# Mountain Flyer

**Col Rodney F. Moody, Commander**

**Capt Jeffrey E. Schrock, Director of Public Affairs**

**Maj Amelia G. Brooks, Editor**

**Volume 2004 Number 3**



## *Calendar*

**9-10 Oct Squadron Leadership School—  
Clarksburg Squadron HQ**

**23 Oct WV Wing Conference and Banquet—  
Marriott Hotel, Charleston**

**23 Oct WV Wing Cadet Ball—Marriott Hotel,  
Charleston**

**29-31 Oct SAREX Training  
at Lewisburg and Bluefield**

**1-7 Nov SAREX Training  
Continued at Lewisburg  
and Bluefield**

**6 Nov WV Wing Cadet  
Competition—Lewis  
County High School, Weston**

**2-4 Dec Cadet Leadership  
School—Mine Academy,  
Beckley**

**28-30 Jan Msn Pilot, Observer, and Incident Commander Training—Mine Academy**

**11-13 Feb Unit Inspector Training—Mine Academy**

**22-24 Apr MER Region Conference—Richmond, VA**

## ***SAFETY FIRST***

## **West Virginia Civil Air Patrol Responds to Hurricane Flooding**

Maj Amelia G. Brooks  
Editor, Mountain Flyer

Serious flooding hit West Virginia on the 17th of September 2004 after two hurricanes passed through the state within a ten day period. The ground was saturated with water after the first storm and when heavy rains fell on the 16th, and 17th of the month, the ground could not absorb the additional moisture.

West Virginia CAP crews flew aerial photo recon sorties under mission number AFA3587 from Monday 20 September to Thursday 23 September 2004. They monitored the flood conditions and later provided photos for damage assessment to the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services (OES) after the water subsided. Additionally, the Wing flew WV OES personnel under mission number AFA3586 from Wheeling to Martinsburg to survey tornado damage that had occurred in conjunction with the passage of the hurricanes.

WV OES officials were very pleased with the quality of support provided by CAP.



Wheeling Island totally under water. Main channel of the Ohio River is on the right. Interstate route 70 is shown North of the Nineteenth Century Suspension Bridge



Downtown Wheeling, WV underwater in the foreground. Flooding on the South end of Wheeling Island has covered the Casino, Wheeling Downs Race Track, and Wheeling Park HS Stadium.

# Two Martinsburg Squadron Senior Members Graduate from Mission Aircrew School at the National Emergency Services Academy

1st Lt Thomas Hoffmann  
Martinsburg Composite Squadron

1st Lt Tom Hoffmann and his wife 2nd Lt Lynn Hoffmann recently completed Mission Aircrew School at the National Emergency Services Academy at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The school, conducted by CAP National Headquarters, has trained senior aircrew members each summer for the last five years. This year, the Mission Aircrew School had 36 students, half in the Mission Pilot track and half in the Mission Observer track.

The training, conducted at Columbus, Indiana airport, combines classroom and flight training during seven straight twelve hour days. Students and instructors come from all over the country to attend. Pilots and Observer trainees study together for the first four days.

The classroom instruction is an in-depth review of the Scanner tasks and Observer objectives. Safety and teamwork were stressed as the responsibility of both pilots and observers in order to accomplish their task. The joint training allowed non-pilots a good grasp of what has to be done to operate the communications and navigation tools in the cockpit and a good review for the pilots.

The students were paired up as a pilot/observer team with one CFI instructor/trainer for the entire week. This team approach helped form a cohesive working relationship to reach the goal of performing and demonstrating correctly all tasks that would be needed in a Search and Rescue Mission.

The last day of classroom training was separated so the pilots were given specific information on flight training and the observers were given additional information on their responsibilities.

And as in any school, there was that final exam where the students were required to pass the written questions and then fly a mission and complete all necessary paper work.

Each air crew passed their sorties and the sense of accomplishment was evident in every student as they came in from their aircraft.

The Hoffmann's are the first graduates from West Virginia Wing.



## Alley Cats Fired up by Charleston Cadet Squadron's Color Guard

1st Lt Vickie Bond  
Charleston Cadet Squadron

The Alley Cats pounded the Rome Braves 13 to 4 at Watt Powell Park following the Charleston Cadet Squadron's presentation of the Colors at the beginning of the game on Sunday August 15, 2004. The Charleston Cadet Squadron performing the Color Guard were, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and Color Guard Commander David Bond, Cadet Staff Sergeant James Lawson, Cadet Airman Nick Kerns along with Beckley's Cadet Senior Airman Aaron Parson. Also attending were Charleston Cadets Basic Corey and Matt Taylor who offered general and recruiting information at the game.

Alley Cat's fans and staff commented that the Color Guard did an excellent job and the performance was very moving. The Charleston Alley Cat's management was pleased with the performance and would like to have them back.





# New National Vice Commander Attends 2004 West Virginia Wing Conference and Banquet

Brigadier General Antonio J. Pineda is the new National Vice Commander of Civil Air Patrol. As national vice commander, he serves on the Civil Air Patrol Board of Governors, Civil Air Patrol National Board, as well as the Civil Air Patrol National Executive Committee. General Pineda began his CAP career as a senior member of the West Broward Composite Squadron, Lauderhill, Florida when he and his son, Robert, joined in 1988. Since then, he has served at all command levels. Prior to being elected as the National Vice Commander, he served as the Southeast Region Commander.

General Pineda was awarded the Gill Robb Wilson Award. The Gill Robb Wilson Award is CAP's highest academic award for senior members. He has attended both the Southeast Region Staff College and National Staff College. He is also a graduate of the National Commanders Course and U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College.

His CAP awards include numerous Meritorious and Exceptional Service Awards for his service both as a squadron and group commander. He received the Distinguished Service Award for his service as the Florida Wing Commander. General Pineda earned his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Florida International University. The general began his professional career in 1972 as a police officer and later a detective with the Hollywood, Florida, Police Department. In 1980, he became a special agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, where he is currently a senior agent. General Pineda is a FAA Private Pilot.

General Pineda resides in Plantation, Florida with his wife Rose and daughter Jennifer. He has two sons, Robert, a CAP Officer in Nebraska and Kevin, a police officer in Lauderhill, Florida.



Air Force Lt Gen John F. Regni, Commander of Air University and Brigadier General Antonio J. Pineda's wife Rose pin on the new rank during CAP's annual conference in Tampa, FL.

## National CAP Civic Leadership Academy

Capt Deborah Boggs  
Director of Cadet Programs  
West Virginia Wing

Politics, It's more than campaigning for office: A political life is one of public service. The political sphere includes how people exercise their freedom, cooperate to help one another, and govern themselves in their world. The Civic Leadership Academy fosters cadet officers' civic growth by increasing their leadership skills, civic responsibility, and overall interest in the democratic process.

Not your average field trip to Washington, the academy is an opportunity for 24 of CAP's brightest cadets to explore their government and learn how the three branches and the media inter-relate. Cadets will increase their abilities to lead persuasively, articulate a well reasoned message, and develop a consensus for their position. Culminating with the CAP Legislative Day, CLA cadets will meet with Congressional leaders to help them better understand CAP's worth to America. During their week in Washington, cadets will visit the Capitol, Supreme Court, State Department, plus major national monuments and the Air and Space Museum.

If you are interested in participating in this national activity please contact Capt Deborah Boggs, Director of Cadet Programs at WV Wing Headquarters.

# West Virginia CAP Member Receives National Honor as DDR Administrator of the Year

Capt Jeffery Schrock  
Director of Public Affairs  
West Virginia Wing

Lt Col Dennis Barron has been awarded the Drug Demand Reduction Administrator of the Year Award by National Headquarters of Civil Air Patrol.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, presents this award annually to recognize the outstanding effort put forth by a Wing Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, leading to the Wing's being named DDR Wing of the Year. According to Barron, West Virginia Wing has consistently been ranked in the top three or four Wings in the nation with the best DDR program.

"This ranking was due, in large part, to the outstanding commitment and support by both the past and present Wing Commanders, said Barron. "I also have a strong commitment to the DDR program because I strongly believe in its goals of educating our cadets to the dangers of substance abuse and prevention of the illegal use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco by our members."

Barron said West Virginia Wing has a truly outstanding DDR program and has received over \$50,000 from National Headquarters over the last nine years to conduct this program. "I am very proud of the West Virginia Wing DDR Program," said Barron, "and its commitment to provide a quality program to our members."

Barron was presented the award during the Civil Air Patrol's National Board and Conference Meeting held recently in Tampa, FL. Lt Col Barron serves as the Inspector General for the WV Wing and is a member of the Martinsburg Composite Squadron in Martinsburg, W.Va.



Lt Col Dennis Barron  
Drug Demand Reduction Administrator  
for the West Virginia Wing

## Clarksburg Cadet Receives Award at Encampment

1st Lt John Carr  
Public Affairs Officer  
Clarksburg Composite Squadron

Senior Airman Joel Ridgeway of the Clarksburg Civil Air Patrol Squadron recently received the "Outstanding Cadet" award when he attended the Cadet summer encampment at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, WV. Cadet Ridgeway was one of over 80 cadets from West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and as far away as New Jersey.

The week long camp provided the Cadets with many activities such as physical training, repelling, sports, wall climbing, electronic rifle range, confidence course, CPR training, as well as simulator driving with fatal vision goggles to show affects of alcohol and drugs. They also received rides in an Army "Huey" helicopter.

The "Outstanding Cadet" award is given each year to the first year cadet who most excels in attitude, behavior, military bearing, inspection results and drill ability.

Cadet Ridgeway is 15 years old, attends Grafton High, and has been a member of the Clarksburg Squadron for only 11 months. He is the son of Diane C. Parker, of Grafton and Greg W. Ridgeway of Morgantown.



# Former POW Jessica Lynch Visits Parkersburg CAP Squadron

Capt Jeffery Schrock  
Director of Public Affairs  
West Virginia Wing

Former POW Jessica Lynch visited with members of the Parkersburg Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol on Tuesday, Aug 24.

According to Lt Donald Williams, a squadron member; the planning of the visit was arranged through Lynch's second cousin, Steve Settle.

"I know her cousin as an EMT for Wirt County," said Williams. "He knows me through St. Joseph's Ambulance Service in Wood County. We invited her to tell her who we are, and after a year of planning he set it up for us. I felt we knew her, and in my heart she's a true hero." Lynch served in the U.S. Army as a supply clerk, and was assigned to the 507th Ordnance Maintenance Company. She held the rank of private first-class. Iraqi forces had

captured Lynch and members of her unit after their vehicles got lost on March 23, 2003. A special U.S. team rescued Lynch from an Iraqi hospital on April 1, 2003, but found no other American soldiers alive. The bodies of 11 other soldiers were later recovered. The *Washington Post* reported that an Iraqi lawyer, Mohammed Odeh Al-Rehaief, gave vital information to the rescue team, putting his own life in danger to help rescue Lynch.

Lynch eventually returned to her home in Palestine, W.Va. to recuperate. She became an instant celebrity and a popular symbol of American heroism, thanks to widespread media coverage of her rescue. She authored the best-selling book on the incident, *I Am A Soldier Too: The Jessica Lynch Story*, released on November 11, 2003. She told the Parkersburg unit she still continues physical therapy for two hours, five days a week.

"I still have no feeling in my left foot," said Lynch. "My left leg is still numb, but almost everything is coming back to normal." "The injuries she overcame," said Lt. Williams, "and what she's been through, I thought it would offer encouragement on a moral aspect for our cadets."

Lynch indicated her faith was an important part of her survival. "If I gave up, I don't think my body could have taken it. I knew God would bring me home safely," said Lynch.

Lynch plans to focus on returning to school in the spring. She said in a couple of years when the war in Iraq



Parkersburg Composite Squadron Cadets Patrick Graygen, Cody Pugh, and Austin Ross with former POW Jessica Lynch

## Aerospace Education at Mercer Composite Squadron



Mercer County Cadets build a model hot air balloon during an aerospace education class.

Left: Cadet Randy Smith works on the balloon.



Right: Lt Fred Weber helps cadets fill the hot air balloon.



# West Virginia Wing

## 2004 Summer Cadet Encampment

Capt Jeffery Schrock  
Director of Public Affairs  
West Virginia Wing

Another successful activity for cadets was held as more than 80 cadets and nine senior members gathered at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, W.Va. for the West Virginia Wing 2004 Summer Cadet Encampment.

The week-long encampment provided cadets with activities such as physical training, learning about the military and Civil Air Patrol, moral leadership, CPR training, and drug-demand reduction. They also received orientation rides in a U.S. Army "Huey" helicopter.

Ten Cadets from other Wings attended the encampment. They included: Delaware, National Capitol, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. 70 cadets were from West Virginia.

The encampment senior staff included: Lt Col Dennis Barron, Encampment Commander; Lt Col Dave Caudill, Encampment Vice Commander; Lt Col Connie Moody, Lt Col Thomas Lufkin, Maj Bob Mills, Lt Dave Irwin, Capt Jeffery Schrock, Lt Jim Childress, and Capt Don Robbins.

Encampment Cadet Commander was C/Capt Cody Pugh of Parkersburg Composite Sqdn, and Cadet Deputy Commander was C/1Lt Timothy Wilhelm of Clarksburg Composite Sqdn.

Award Winners of the encampment included:

Outstanding Cadet- C/A1C Joel Ridgway of Clarksburg Composite Sqdn. Outstanding Cadet Officer- C/2Lt Eric Steen of Delaware Wing.

Distinguished Graduates - C/A1C Margaret Cotton of Maryland Wing; C/CMSgt Robert Armstrong of Ohio Wing; C/A1C Andrew Gracey of Pennsylvania Wing; C/A1C Aaron Parsons of Beckley Composite Sqdn.

Most Improved Cadet- C/AMN Jonathon Simerlink of Martinsburg Sqdn.

Winner of Drill Competition- C/2Lt Roger Pettit of Charleston Cadet Sqdn.

Outstanding NCO- C/CMSgt Justin McCullough of Delaware Wing.

Honor Flight- Bravo Flight

"Our Pass and Review/Graduation ceremonies were very well attended," said Lt Col Dennis Barron, encampment commander, "and each participant received an encampment photo. DDR funding was used to purchase the encampment tee-shirts, caps and handbooks.

According to the encampment critiques, the cadets rated the helicopter flight as the best activity, followed by the DDR Fatal Vision Exercise, rappel tower, and the electronic firing range."

Cadets who attended shared their thoughts in what was learned from the encampment.

"I enjoyed my time at the encampment, and look forward to the next encampment." said Cadet Joel Ridgway.

"Thank you for accepting me to the West Virginia Encampment," said C/A1C Andrew Gracey. "I had a fun time and learned a lot. I made some new friends, and also learned how to drive! My favorite thing at Camp Dawson was the rappel tower and driving the golf carts - DUI style. I think I might go back next year because it impressed me so much of how fun it was, but also because all the staff was very nice."

"Just wanted to thank you for a great encampment," said Cadet Amn. Christopher Davis. "I came to previous years at first wary about encampment, because I thought we would not have much fun, but after this year my opinion has changed. I am grateful that you were the encampment commander this year, and although some things did not work out as planned, I still had a great time."

The 2005 Summer Encampment is already planned. So make plans to attend another exciting activity.



Cadets Pass in Review During Encampment Graduation

# Life at the National CAP Music Academy

Cadet Courtney Ropp  
Charleston Cadet Squadron

On Monday, July 12, 2004, forty-five Civil Air Patrol Cadets arrived at Camp Fettered, Maryland. What a group we were. We represented forty-five states out of fifty. The farthest state to respond was Alaska. After registration and unpacking, we hung out and got to know each other better.

After lunch we had auditions for the concert portion. I made third chair first clarinet. When all the auditions were over, I received my fife. It took me three days to learn how to play it. For four days we ate, slept, and practiced nonstop.

On Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, we packed and boarded a charter bus for Meridan, Connecticut. We went through New York City and saw the Empire State Building and The Statue of Liberty. It was awesome, but the traffic was horrible! We went down a street called Pot Hole Alley, and believe me the name says it all.

Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, we were in the Deep River Ancient Muster Parade in Meridan. There were one hundred and fifty bands there. The National Military Music Academy Band, that's us, played three different songs while marching. The parade was awesome; we saw three bands from three different countries, which was a once in a lifetime chance to see. People from different countries come to the parade each year.

One Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, we left for Camp Fettered, Maryland. Before arriving we stopped at Inner Harbor, Maryland for supper. A group of friends and I ate at the Hard Rock Café. We had a waitress who sat down with us and began a food fight. That was very cool.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, we practiced and hung out. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, we got our concert instruments and loaded up the vans and headed to Bolling Air Force Base to practice with the Air Force Band. They were awesome! I even got to conduct the band during practice! After practice in Washington D.C., we went sight seeing. We went to see the Air and Space Museum, The History Museum, The Washington Monument, and The Jefferson Memorial.

From Wednesday July 21<sup>st</sup>, to Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, we practiced both concert and marching music. We had a picnic on the 23rd, packed up everything for our move on Saturday.

Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup>, we moved about twenty miles from Camp Fettered to Loyola College, in Baltimore Maryland.

On Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, we had an awards banquet. Then on Monday July 26, we had a concert at Mt. Vernon. After the concert we toured George Washington's home. In the evening we played field music and marched down to Washington's grave where the buglers played taps. On Tuesday July 27<sup>th</sup>, we were the opening act for the Air Force Band at the Korean War Memorial. While I was there I met Ambassadors from different countries and a Prince. After the ceremony we went to Arlington National Cemetery, where we performed a concert. It was awesome. We also played music, taps and marched to the Civil Air Patrol Memorial. Afterward we went to Ft. Myers and swam in the pool.

On Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup>, we packed, cleaned our rooms and left for home. I would recommend this camp for any cadet that plays in a High School Band. I had a lot of fun, learned a lot and made a lot of new friends.



Cadet Courtney Ropp Plays her Fife



The CAP Band in Formation

## Promotions

To Lt Col: Ronald L. Slaughter, WV001 To Maj: Walter M. Lockhart, WV100

To Capt: Clarence W. Blankenship WV093; Timothy D. Carmean, WV060; Therese L. Erwin, WV113;  
Keith T. Jones, WV020; Dennis R. Moore, WV038; Paul D. Rivenbark, WV060



# Charleston Cadet Squadron Participates in the Charleston Regatta

1st Lt Vickie Bond  
Charleston Cadet Squadron

The weekend of Sept 3 through 5 was a wonderful weekend for the conclusion of the Charleston Regatta with the help of West Virginia Civil Air Patrol's Charleston Cadet Squadron.

The Squadron had a fun time helping with Night Glow on Friday night, and some of the cadets enjoyed a ride in the balloons. Five senior members and six cadets participated. Saturday was fun and a lot of hard work. With four senior members and 12 cadets, the Charleston Cadet Squadron started the morning at 7:30 doing traffic control for the 15-mile distance run. At 10:00 the Color Guard changed uniform very quickly and was the lead Color Guard for the parade at 11:00. After the parade the cadets had a little free time to eat lunch and rest before heading to

Magic Island at 2 pm. At Magic Island the Squadron assisted with crowd control while the Navy Seals performed an awesome demonstration of the UH-60 Night Hawk which was only four weeks old, they also performed some water demonstrations. As a reward for all their hard work the cadets got to spend some time with the Navy Seals. Then it was back to work at 5:30 for the Balloon Race. The cadets assisted the balloon racers in putting the balloons up and getting them in the air. Finally after the last balloon was in the air at 7:00 the Charleston Cadet Squadron called it a day and dismissed. Everyone went home tired but having enjoyed the day's events.



## Martinsburg Squadron Works to Support the Berkeley County Youth Fair

Lt Col Dennis Barron  
Martinsburg Composite Squadron

The Martinsburg Composite Squadron completed a highly successful fundraiser during the week of August 2 - 7, by parking over 30,000 cars during the annual Berkeley County Youth Fair. The Youth Fair donated \$1200 to the Martinsburg Squadron in return for the unit's assistance in parking cars during the six nights of the fair. The squadron spent approximately 411

man-hours on this project and averaged 5 senior members and 8 cadets working on the project each evening. The squadron members earned high praise from Youth Fair officials for their fast and efficient handling of traffic.

The project not only served as a major fund-raiser for the squadron, it also served as an outstanding community service project and a good public relations event. Shown above are some of the cadets who participated in the Youth Fair Parking Project holding on to the \$1200 check earned by squadron members who parked over 30,000 cars during the six evenings of the Fair.



## Program Awards

General Billy Mitchell Award: Cadet Ian B. Boley, WV040

Brig Gen Charles E. Yeager Award: Capt Jeffery E. Schrock, WV001; Capt Bradford W. Williams, WV040;  
1st Lt Jack L. Oliver, WV038; 2nd Lt James L. Childress, WV099

## Final Salute

SM Robert Dan Smith, WV100



# Lt Col John S. Markley Passes Away 18 Sep 04

Maj Amelia G. Brooks  
Editor, Mountain Flyer  
West Virginia Wing

Headquarters, WV Wing is sad to announce that Lt Col John S. Markley, Director of Communications, passed away on 18 September, 04.

Lt Col Markley first joined CAP in the 1950s and later in 1986 he returned to active membership and had since been a very productive member. He started a squadron in Pineville, where he was Commander; and later was also Commander in Beckley. In both instances, he was selected as the Outstanding Commander of the Year.

Lt Col Markley completed Senior Training Levels 1,2, and 3. His ES achievements consisted of Communications Unit Leader, General Emergency Services and Mission Radio Operator.

John was quite an entrepreneur in his day. At one time he owned a grocery store, a concession stand at Cleveland Clinic, and he finally retired from running his own restaurant in Cleveland Ohio. A native of Enterprise, WV, retired, being a man of all trades and experience, but mostly a giver to those in need, he put his knowledge to work. In 1993, John and his wife Carol started a "Food Bank" in the Danese, WV area where his family resides. For the past eleven years they have been feeding monthly, 150 families.

A busy man, the busier the better for John, he was also a volunteer with the local fire department and an interdenominational guest preacher wherever they needed him.

Married for 36 years to Carol, he was a father to four children and a proud grandfather. Despite his illness, he was at Wing Headquarters as often as he could be. John is already missed, and it is with great respect and fondness that the Headquarters Staff is honored to stand and salute him for all the fine work and dedication he gave to the WV CAP....we will all miss him.



Lt Col John Markley, West Virginia Wing  
Director of Communications at the CAP National Staff College

## Safety Corner

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brian Shatzer was a witness to an accident which fatally injured two people and involved ten other victims. According to Lt Shatzer, "we were traveling north on I-79 near Fairmont, WV; the convoy we were in consisted of four school buses loaded with nearly two-hundred band members; an SUV pulling a trailer, and I was driving the sixth bus, which had been converted into a band equipment truck."

The first of two accidents started in the southbound lane with a rear-ending of one vehicle, forcing it into another, with all vehicles ending up in either the left lane north-bound or on the median side of the lane, nearly missing buses two and three. Cars began to stop to assist causing a backup on the interstate. This is when a semi-truck with a trailer attempted to stop to avoid the backed-up traffic but jackknifed and flipped onto its side directly on a van with four persons on-board. While our buses traveled on to the high school, I radioed that we were stopping to assist. I called 911, reported an accident with entrapment and severe injuries with the need of a helicopter and then began to assist by looking for victims. Soon there were EMT's, nurses, and paramedics arriving at the scene. Since they were more qualified than I in treating victims, I began to direct traffic until relieved by local firemen. Civil Air Patrol provides us training in many areas, from first aid to management of a crash scene. Safety is a part of all training; if you do not practice safety you may end up a victim during a mission or rescue. The likelihood of us using this training in life situations apart from CAP is very high. We train so that we can act to assist others. By learning the proper procedures and the safe way to perform them may one day save a life.

Some safety observations made prior to and following the accident were: using the left lane on the interstate as a primary driving lane; stopping at a crash scene just to watch; rubbernecking at a crash scene; driving too fast for road conditions; following too close; not using headlights during rain or when the roads are wet; and not using the turn signals. The loss of life in these accidents were caused in large part by carelessness.

We must always act in a safe manner; failure to do so, may cause injury or death to someone.

# 19 July 04 Air Crash at Wheeling Airport

Lt Col Eugene Thorn  
Director of Emergency Services  
West Virginia Wing

At 0320 local on 19 July, CAP members from the WV Wing were alerted to search for a missing aircraft with five persons on board. The aircraft was on a flight from Warsaw IN to Wheeling, WV.

Mission Base was established at the Wheeling Squadron Headquarters and Ground Teams from the Clarksburg and Morgantown units were dispatched to the location. Clarksburg aircraft N834CP followed when weather cleared enough for takeoff from CKB.

Assisted by a helicopter from the WV ANG at Wheeling, ground teams located the wreckage at about 10:10 in the morning, approximately 1/4 mile off the approach end of runway 3 at Wheeling Ohio County Airport. The wreckage was in dense woods and was totally destroyed by the crash and fire. All five persons on board were deceased. The Ground Teams had trouble positively identifying the aircraft due to the almost total destruction by fire, however confirmation of the tail number was finally established by locating a serial number on the ID plate under what was left of one of the horizontal stabilizers. The crash location was turned over to the WV State Police for recovery of the remains. All of the CAP members who participated are to be commended for a job well done. Wheeling Squadron provided the base of operations and the members to staff the mission and take care of communications, Morgantown and Clarksburg Squadrons provided highly trained Ground Teams and Clarksburg brought a CAP aircraft to the base with an expert crew.

Location of the missing aircraft was accomplished in about seven hours from the time of notification by the AFRCC, and considering the travel time necessary to get to the Base location, I think this is a great accomplishment. For several of the Ground Team members, this was the first crash they had seen that was so severely burned and in which so many people perished. Their conduct at the scene was exactly what is expected from the highly trained ground teams of the WV Wing. They did their job of confirming the aircraft as the actual missing aircraft, and confirming that there were five lost souls, and turned the site over to the proper authorities. Most of all, there was no discussion later of what they had seen. As the CAP IC, I have nothing but praise for all those that participated, especially the ground team members. Your actions make me proud.